

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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VIRGINIA HOUSING COMMISSION

SUMMARY

**Virginia Housing Commission
The Historic Resource Sub-Workgroup
September 13, 2016, 2:00 PM
House Room C, General Assembly Building**

The Historic Resource Sub-Workgroup met at 2:00 PM on September 13, 2016 in the 5th Floor East Conference Room, General Assembly Building.

The meeting was open to all interested parties and posted on the General Assembly and Virginia Housing Commission Website prior to the meeting.

Those who chose to sit at the table for the discussion were: Chip Dicks; Virginia Association of Realtors, Mark Flynn, Sherri Neil; Intergovernmental Affairs Manager, Portsmouth, Terri Danaher, citizen, Portsmouth Joe Lerch; VACO, Michelle Gowdy; VML. Elizabeth Palen, Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Commission for also present at the meeting.

The issue presented by Sherri Neil was the following: In Portsmouth there is a disconnect between the Code of Virginia (Section 15.2-2306) and the interpretation of the Historic Preservation Commission.

The Historic Preservation Commission is challenged by homeowners putting on non-historic roofs, taking off porches, historically incorrect windows, etc.... The issues are then brought to City Council, who then allows a variance for the homeowner. This affects the other homeowner's property values and the tax base of the city. It is essentially "demolition by neglect."

The Historic Districts of Portsmouth would like a check box to be added to the real estate contract signifying that the buyer is aware that although not in a property owner association, they are purchasing in a historic district and must comply with the requirements to live within the historic area.

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A discussion ensued about the issues of different localities having vastly different requirements for historic districts and the onus being placed on the realtor.

The meeting concluded by Mark Flynn and Chip Dicks offering to create a draft which would inform the buyers interested in purchasing a home that they should determine if they are buying in an historic district and be aware that there are special considerations--they will submit the suggested draft to the sub-workgroup members for their input . The City of Portsmouth will post on their website where historic districts are located and the requirements to live in each historic district in their locality.